AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 7 and 11 and add new claims 15-18 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a server that is one of a plurality of servers from a client terminal having a browser, a memory device and a processor, said plurality of servers and said client terminal being connectable with each other via a communications network, comprising the steps of:

a) transmitting a first request packet from said browser to one of said plurality of servers for requesting identity of an intended server maintaining a shared data file;

b) receiving the first request packet at said one server and transmitting therefrom server specific information to said browser, indicating the identity of the intended server;

c) receiving said server specific information at said browser and invoking said processor to hand over the received information to the processor;

d) transmitting a second request packet from the processor containing the identity of said intended server to said network for requesting downloading of said shared data file, whereby the second request packet is automatically routed through the network to the intended server;

e) receiving the second request packet at the intended server and downloading the requested shared data file from the intended server to said processor, and storing the downloaded shared data file in said memory device; and

f) transmitting a third request packet from said processor to the intended server for requesting differential data, and transmitting therefrom to said processor differential data representing a difference between [[a]] an updated version of said shared data file currently maintained by the intended server and the shared data file that was downloaded in step (e) from the intended server to said processor.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said network includes a cache memory, and wherein said second request packet contains an identifier identifying said shared data file, said identifier being determined for each access from said processor to said intended server so that the shared data file identified by said identifier does not coincide with data stored in said cache memory.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a server that is one of a plurality of servers from a client terminal having a browser, a memory device and a processor, said plurality of servers and said client terminal being connectable with each other via a communications network, comprising the steps of:

a) transmitting a first request packet from said browser to one of said plurality of servers for requesting identity of an intended server maintaining a shared data file;

b) receiving the first request packet at said one server and transmitting therefrom server specific information to said browser, indicating the identity of the intended server;

c) receiving said server specific information at said browser and storing the received information; ~~d) invoking the processor and transmitting a second request packet therefrom to a server specified by the stored server specific information~~;

d) invoking the processor and transmitting a second request packet therefrom containing the stored identity of said intended server to said network for requesting downloading of said shared data file, whereby the second request packet is automatically routed through the network to the intended server;

e) receiving the second request packet at the intended server and downloading the requested shared data file from the intended server to said processor, and storing the downloaded shared data file in said memory device; and

f) transmitting a third request packet from said processor to the intended server for requesting differential data, and transmitting therefrom to said processor differential data representing a difference between a said shared data file currently maintained by the intended server and the shared data file that was downloaded in step (e) from the intended server to said processor.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said network includes a cache memory, and wherein said second request packet contains an identifier identifying said shared data file, said identifier being determined for each access from said processor to said intended server so that the shared data file identified by said identifier does not coincide with data stored in said cache memory.

7. (Currently Amended) A client-server system comprising:

a communications network;

a plurality of servers connected to the network; and

a client terminal connected to the network, the client terminal having a processor, a memory device and a browser, the browser transmitting a first request

packet to one of said plurality of servers for requesting identity of a server that maintains a shared data file;

said one of said servers being responsive to said first request packet for transmitting server specific information to said browser for indicating the identity of an intended server,

said browser being responsive to said server specific information for invoking said processor to hand over the received information thereto,

said processor being responsive to the received information for transmitting a second request packet containing the identity of the intended server to said network for requesting downloading of the shared data file, whereby the second request packet is automatically routed through the network to said intended server and being configured to store a said shared data file when the same is downloaded from said intended server in said memory device and transmit a third request packet to the intended server for requesting differential data, and

the intended server being responsive to the second request packet for downloading shared data file to said processor and being responsive to said third request packet for transmitting to the processor differential data representing a difference between [[a]] an updated version of said shared data file currently maintained by the intended server and the shared data file that was downloaded in response to said second request packet.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) The client-server system of claim 7, wherein said network includes a cache memory, and wherein said second request packet contains an identifier identifying said shared data file, wherein said processor is configured to

determine said identifier for each access from the processor to said intended server so that the shared data file identified by said identifier does not coincide with data stored in said cache memory.

10. (Previously Presented) The client-server system of claim 7, wherein said intended server is configured to receive server specific information from another server of the network and transmits the received server specific information to said browser.

11. (Currently Amended) A client-server system comprising:

a communications network;

a plurality of servers connected to the network; and

a client terminal connected to the network, the client terminal having a processor, a memory device and a browser, the browser transmitting a first request packet to one of said plurality of servers for requesting identity of an intended server that maintains a shared data file;

said one of said servers being responsive to said first request packet for transmitting a server specific information to said browser for indicating the identity of the intended a server,

said browser receiving said server specific information and storing the received information and invoking said processor,

said processor reading the stored information and transmitting a second request packet containing the identity of said intended server to said network for requesting downloading of said shared file, whereby the second request packet is automatically routed through the network to the intended server and being configured to store a said shared data file when the same is downloaded from said specified server

in said memory device and transmit a third request packet to the specified server for requesting differential data, and

the intended server being responsive to the second request packet for downloading the requested shared data file to said processor and being responsive to said third request packet for transmitting to the processor differential data representing a difference between [[a]] an updated version of said shared data file maintained by the intended server and the shared data file that was downloaded in response to said second request packet.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) The client-server system of claim 11, wherein said network includes a cache memory, and wherein said second request packet contains an identifier identifying said shared data file, wherein said processor is configured to determine said identifier for each access from the processor to said intended server so that the shared data file identified by said identifier does not coincide with data stored in said cache memory.

14. (Previously Presented) The client-server system of claim 11, wherein said intended server is configured to receive server specific information from another server of the network and transmits the received server specific information to said browser.

15. (New) A method of identifying a server that is one of a plurality of servers from a client terminal, said plurality of servers and said client terminal being connectable with each other via a communications network, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a first request packet from said client terminal to one of said plurality of servers for requesting identity of an intended server maintaining a shared data file;

receiving the first request packet at said one server and transmitting therefrom server specific information to said client terminal, indicating the identity of the intended server;

receiving said server specific information at said client terminal and transmitting a second request packet from the client terminal containing the identity of said intended server to said network for requesting downloading of said shared data file, whereby the second request packet is automatically routed through the network to the intended server;

receiving the second request packet at the intended server and downloading therefrom the requested shared data file to said client terminal;

transmitting a third request packet from said client terminal to the intended server for requesting differential data; and

receiving the third request packet at the intended server and transmitting to said client terminal differential data representing a difference between an updated version of said shared data file currently maintained by the intended server and the shared data file that was downloaded to said client terminal.

16. (New) A client-server system comprising:

a communications network;

a plurality of servers connected to the network; and

a client terminal connected to the network, the client terminal transmitting a first request packet to one of said plurality of servers for requesting identity of a server that maintains a shared data file;

said one of said servers being responsive to said first request packet for transmitting server specific information to said client terminal for indicating the identity of an intended server in which said shared data file is maintained,

said client terminal being responsive to said server specific information for transmitting a second request packet containing the identity of the intended server to said network for requesting downloading of the shared data file, whereby the second request packet is automatically routed through the network to said intended server, and transmitting a third request packet to the intended server for requesting differential data, and

the intended server being responsive to the second request packet for downloading said shared data file to said client terminal and being responsive to said third request packet for transmitting to said client terminal differential data representing a difference between un updated version of said shared data file currently maintained by the intended server and the shared data file that was downloaded in response to said second request packet.

17. (New) A client terminal connectable through a communications network to a plurality of servers, comprising:

means for acquiring identity of a server that maintains a shared data file from one of said plurality of servers;

means for requesting downloading of the shared data file from one of said plurality of servers which is identified by the acquired identity, whereby said one server downloads the shared data file to said client terminal; and

means for requesting differential data from said one server, whereby said one server transmits to said client terminal differential data representing a difference between an updated version of said shared data file currently maintained by said one server and the shared data file that was downloaded from said one server.

18. (New) A server connectable through a communications network to a client terminal, wherein said server is one of a plurality of servers connected to said network and is identified by an identification number, comprising:

means for receiving a first request packet from said client terminal requesting identity of one of said servers that maintains a shared data file, generating server specific information containing identity of said one server transmitting the server specific information to said client terminal;

means for receiving a second request packet from said client terminal containing the identity of said one server and downloading said shared data file to said client terminal if the identity contained in the received packet matches said identification number; and

means for transmitting differential data to said client terminal in response to a third request packet therefrom, said differential data representing a difference between an updated version of said shared data file currently maintained and the shared data file that was downloaded.